(b) whether the new environment impact assessment norms under the New Environment Policy 2006 envisages empowerment of State Governments and even municipalities and panchayats to clear certain types and scales of projects; and

(c) by when the new norms are likely to be in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification dated 14th September 2006, the environmental clearance process has been decentralized. According to the Notification, all Category 'A' projects will require environmental clearance at the Central Government level while all Category 'B' projects will be considered by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and the environmental clearance shall be accorded by the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEAC).

(c) The EIA Notification is already in place *vide* Notification No. S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14th September 2006.

Decline in number of elephants

†1107. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the number of elephants in two sanctuaries of Orissa *i.e.* Chandaka sanctuary and Usha Kothi sanctuary are continuously declining;

(b) if so, decline in number of elephants during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government have implemented five approved elephants corridor projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken or being taken to increase the number of elephants and other wildlife animals alongwith their security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reports received from State Government, the elephant population in Chandaka Sanctuary and Ushakothi Sanctuary in last two census are as follows:—

Name of the Sanctuary	Population in 2002	Population in 2005
1. Chandaka Sanctuary	62	65
2. Usha Kothi Sanctuary [now called Badarama sanctuary in Barmara (WL) Division]	201	192 +12 migrated to the adjoining forests of Sonpur

(c) and (d) The proposal for 5 elephant reserves namely (1) Mayurbhanja Elephant Reserve (2) Sambalpur Elephant Reserve (3) Mahanadi Elephant Reserve (4) Baitarani Elephant Reserve and (5) South Orissa Elephant Reserve submitted by the State Government have all been approved by the Ministry and works under Project Elephant are being implemented in all these Elephant Reserves for conservation and protection of elephants and other wild animals.

Pollution due to passenger cars

†1108. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and other 87 cities have been identified where atmosphere is becoming polluted as a result of increase in the number of passenger cars;

(b) if so, the names of those cities; and

(c) the rapid steps Government have taken to control the spreading of pollution through cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.